

Remarks

Reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims, in view of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

In the pending Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 20, and 21, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Suzuki '160 (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0176160). The Examiner also objected to the Abstract for allegedly being too long, objected to claims 10, 13-19, and 26 as allegedly containing informalities, allowed claims 24-25, and objected to claims 2-19, 22-23, and 26-31 but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By this Amendment, the Abstract, claims 2-6, 8-18, 22-23, and 26-27 have been amended for form and clarity and claims 1 and 20-21 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added. As such, claims 2-19 and 22-31 are currently presented for examination of which claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 22, 23, and 27 are independent.

With regard to the claim changes, Applicants submit that claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 22, 23, 26, and 27 have been rewritten in independent form. These claims are allowable for the reasons presented by the Examiner. In addition, claims 10, 13-19, and 26 have been amended to correct the informalities indicated by the Examiner and claims 1, 20, and 21 have been cancelled, rendering the §102(b) rejection moot.

Thus, Applicants submit that claims 2-19 and 22-31 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the immediate withdrawal of the objections and rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Having addressed each of the foregoing rejections, it is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

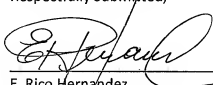
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Date: November 12, 2008

Respectfully Submitted,

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